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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/922,979	08/06/2001	Tetsuya Ikeda	KAMI-BP32	1440
21611	7590	11/17/2005	EXAMINER	
SNELL & WILMER LLP 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626			SHIBRU, HELEN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/922,979

Applicant(s)

IKEDA, TETSUYA

Examiner

HELEN SHIBRU

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/8/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

1. Figures 1-3 and 5 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the proper labels or legend corresponding to all blocks must be provided as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Semba (US Pat.No. 5,931,680).

Regarding claim 1, Semba discloses a handy karaoke equipment comprising:

an equipment body formed in imitation of a hand microphone which includes a grip portion of a thickness sufficient to permit a user to grip it by one hand and including a head portion which has a microphone integrally incorporated therein (see col. 3 lines 6-12, and fig. 1 microphone (80) and fig. 2 microphone (45)); and

a data cartridge detachably mounted in said equipment body and having image data and performed music data stored therein (see col. 3 lines 26-36 and col. 4 lines 38-60);

said equipment body including an operation section for selecting performed music and setting conditions for performance of the music selected (see col. 3 lines 21-26 and 36-50);

said equipment body being provided therein with an audio signal processing section for converting the performed music data read out of said data cartridge into a performance signal (see col. 4 lines 38-44), combining said performance signal and a sound signal inputted thereto from said microphone with each other to prepare a combined signal and converting the combined signal into an audio signal depending on the performance conditions (see col. 4 lines 44-60);

said equipment body being provided therein with a video signal processing section for converting the image data read out of said data cartridge into a video signal (see fig. 3 and col. 4 lines 18-25, 38-60 and col. 6 lines 48-67).

Regarding claim 2, Semba discloses performance conditions include a tempo of the performed music selected, a key thereof and an echo (see col. 4 lines 5-17).

Regarding claim 3, Semba discloses video signal are outputted to an external said audio signal and equipment by cable (see col. 4 lines 18-25 and fig. 3, connector cable).

Regarding claim 5, Semba discloses equipment body is provided on a front surface thereof with a display for displaying said operation section and operation by said operation section (see col. 3 lines 20-25); and

said equipment body is provided on a rear surface thereof with a connector in which said data cartridge is inserted (see fig. 2 ROM cartridge (50) and col. 4 lines 38-41).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Semba in view of Fiegura (US Pat. No. 6,114,774).

Regarding claim 4, this claim differs from Semba in that the claim further requires audio signal is outputted to an external equipment by radio. Although Semba does not specifically discloses audio signal is outputted to the TV (TV (60) in fig. 3) by radio, Semba discloses a sound switch to be applied for two environments, an automobile and an interior of the room (see col. 3 lines 59-67). Semba does further discloses an echo controller for controlling the degree of an echo effect (see col. 4 lines 6-17).

In the same field of endeavor Fiegura discloses a karaoke accompanying in a motor vehicle. Fiegura further discloses a directional microphone connected to a mixer. Fiegura further discloses the audio signal is picked up by the car stereo radio (see col. 2 lines 50-61 and col. 3 line 32-col.4 line 37). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to output an audio signal to external equipment in a karaoke system in order to make it suitable for retrofitting to a vehicle.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tokuzumi (US Pub. No. 2002/0148344) discloses a karaoke connected to a TV set via cable and radio.

Luo (US Pat. No. 5,684,261) discloses a karaoke connected to a TV set via radio.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELEN SHIBRU whose telephone number is (571) 272-7329. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAMES J. GROODY can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Helen Shibu
November 10, 2005


James J. Groody
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 262-2616